The Physician's BOOKSHELF

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

Christopher's TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY — Ninth Edition — Edited by Loyal Davis, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Emeritus, Northwestern University Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. 1493 pages with 1368 illustrations on 720 figures, $21.00.

This is the ninth edition of a textbook of surgery which has been well accepted now for over 20 years by the majority of medical students in the country. The book is one of multiple authorship, with outstanding academicians in all areas making sound contributions to the broad scope of modern surgery. The book has been kept up-to-date, and areas such as bioengineering, tissue transplantation, artificial organs, monitoring of critically ill patients, and topics of this type are also included in the standard textbook.

The book has the particular virtue that it is broad in scope but concise, practical and readily understandable. It is written in clear style, is direct in statement, but not dull in composition.

There are two or three other standard textbooks of surgery available at the present time. This particular textbook occupies the intermediary range. It is not as short or superficial as the smaller works, and is not excessively detailed or lengthy in its approach to surgical problems. It emphasizes principles rather than technique, and is an excellent textbook of surgery for student and general practitioner. The book covers the areas of general surgery and the major surgical specialties, including thoracic, genitourinary, orthopedic and other surgical specialty problems. It can be strongly recommended to the student as an outstanding textbook of surgery.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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CLINICAL RADIATION PATHOLOGY—Volume I and Volume II —Philip Rubin, M.D., Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and Radioisotopes and Associate in Medicine and Surgery, University of Rochester School of Medicine; and George W. Casarett, Ph.D., Professor of Radiation Biology and Biophysics, University of Rochester School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. Volume I—pp. 1 to 517 (plus Index), and Volume II—pp. 518 to 1057 (plus Index); $45.00 the set.

A logical and stimulating approach to the clinical problems of radiotherapy is presented in this superbly written monograph by therapeutic radiologist Philip Rubin and pathologist George W. Casarett. In developing a biological basis for radiation therapy, the authors correlate the clinical events and symptoms occurring during and after irradiation with the histopathologic changes in tumor and host tissue systems. The radiotherapist is thereby given guideposts to a more intelligent approach to a plan of therapy and significantly to the prevention and treatment of its complications.

The literature of the past several decades abounds with information on the in vivo effects of radiation in humans and animals, but it is to the authors' credit that the importance of this information for clinical application is brought to full realization. The data seems to be the most pertinent, current, and reliable. Wherever capable of extrapolation to clinical use, knowledge from molecular and in vitro cellular research levels is presented.

The monograph, therefore, is an invaluable reference for the radiotherapist, researcher, and resident radiologist. It surpasses in clinical applicability the usual text on radiobiology and complements rather than replaces the standard works on radiotherapy. It begins with concise but thorough depiction of cellular and tissue radiopathology, essential to the complete appreciation and understanding of the subsequent material. Current concepts of nuclear structure are well defined.

Each of the following 18 chapters outline, with a superbly organized repetitive format, the pattern of events or clinical course to be expected during and after each stage or period of irradiation of a specific tissue system. The symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of each clinical effect is defined from the acute through the late or delayed stages, and is then followed by the cellular and histopathologic findings as well as the radiopathologic basis for the above events. A most valuable inclusion is the effect of irradiation on other tissues and systems physiologically or anatomically related.

The authors constantly stress the dynamic interaction and dependence of all tissues, their supporting stroma, relative radiosensivity, and their differentiating cell population kinetics. Thereafter, the variable physical and biological factors affecting these responses are presented, i.e., the functions of time, dose, fractionation, or quality of radiation; or the effects of age, sex, circulation, or preexisting disease. Of surpassing value, the *Therapeutic Implications* at each chapter's end presents a philosophical appraisal of what has been discussed and how it might influence the conduct of a course of radiotherapy.

The last seven chapters give current material on Oxygen and Chemotherapeutic modification of radiation response, on Radiation Carcinogenesis, Radiation Syndromes, Radiation effects on Fetus and Embryo, on Sensitivity and Resistance of Tumors, and lastly on the Radiopathologic basis for the Time-Dose Relationship.

The text is well published with excellent illustrations and well captioned for ready access to the material. It should find a frequented place in the library of the cancer therapist, radiologist or oncologist, the radiology resident, and the radiobiologic researcher.

LLOYD GILLIN, M.D.